



**HUMAN RIGHTS
AND JUSTICE CENTRE**

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ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT

FY 2021-2022

Dear friends,

The aftermath of COVID-19 continued in recurrences of its variants as well as occurrences of violations against people's life and liberty. The post-COVID situation reflected a serious decline in law and order in the country and highlighted the dire need for intervention against the State's violations and evidently more towards the marginalized communities and vulnerable groups. The complexities after the impeachment motion against the Chief Justice further hurdled the sitting of the Constitutional bench, eventually entrenching the gap between the victims and justice. The HRJC, in its capacities since its inception, including during the pandemic and post-pandemic continued its work to improve access to justice for the victims of gross human rights violations with the support of its board members, staff, partners, donors, beneficiaries, well-wishers and most importantly resilient survivors.

Notably, this year, the HRJC supported victims before national as well as international legal avenues; expanded its training and long-term coaching in western districts; continued advocacy through various webinars with international experts, joint collaborative panel discussions, and meetings with national authorities. With high hopes, the HRJC collaborated with conflict victims, human rights organizations, and rights activists to support the government in amending national laws on transitional justice in line with international standards and decisions of the Supreme Court of Nepal. Regrettably, the results of such consultations could not result in the ultimate outcome of the amendment of the Act. Nevertheless, it created a foundation for the upcoming governments and authorities to start with. The HRJC will continue its efforts to bring the victims closer to justice.

The HRJC is motivated by a positive decision from the United Nations on a case of extrajudicial killing that took place during the internal armed conflict and will be taking necessary steps to support the government towards implementation of the decision.

These would not have been possible without the continuous supporters of the HRJC's work and vision. Thus, we are grateful for your support. On behalf of the HRJC team, we appreciate each of your well-wishes and expect the same support in the upcoming days. Thank you all!

Kapil Aryal
Chairperson



Salina Kafle
Executive Director



Human Rights and Justice Centre (HRJC) is a non-governmental organization, which improves access to justice for victims of human rights violations in Nepal, such as torture, enforced disappearances, extrajudicial executions, and sexual violence. Registered in Nepal since 2017 and based in Lalitpur, it was created with the support of TRIAL International, a Geneva-based NGO specializing in seeking justice for survivors of mass atrocities.

CUMULATIVE IMPACT SINCE 2017



25

victims of gross human rights violations received legal assistance.



309

lawyers, human rights defenders, and NGO representatives trained.



26

cases submitted and followed up before national legal avenues and the UN human rights mechanisms.



16

advocacy reports submitted to national bodies and the UN human rights mechanisms.

Thematic Areas

Extrajudicial killings



Enforced disappearances



Conflict-related sexual violence



Torture**



**Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment



Our mission is to create a culture of human rights compliance and accountability in Nepal and act as a catalyst for social change based on the principles of justice and substantive equality. We envision a just society where there is easy accessibility to justice for the victims of human rights violations and abuses.

CUMULATIVE REACH SINCE 2017

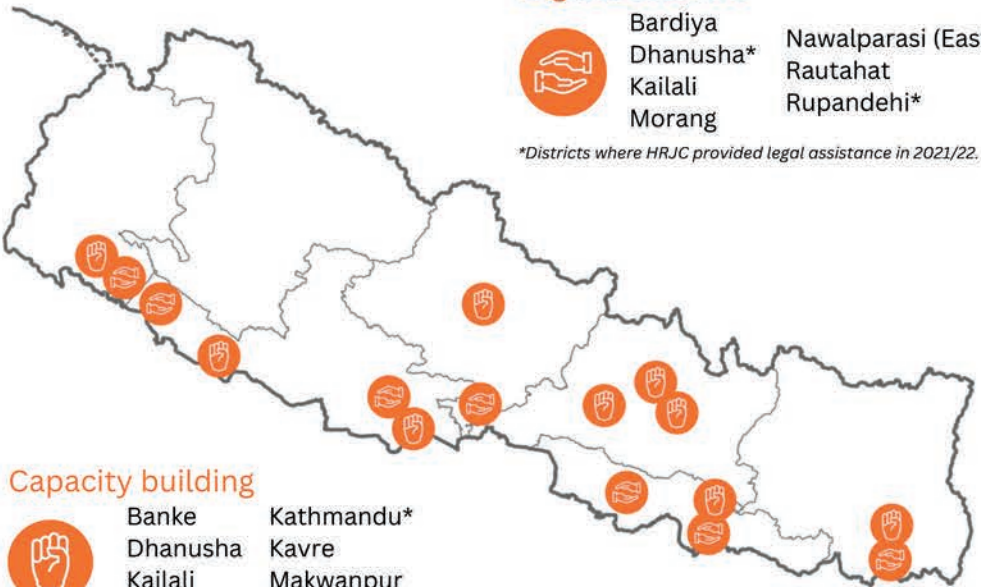
Legal assistance



Bardiya
Dhanusha*
Kailali
Morang

Nawalparasi (East)
Rautahat
Rupandehi*

**Districts where HRJC provided legal assistance in 2021/22.*



Capacity building



Banke
Dhanusha
Kailali
Kaski
Kathmandu*
Kavre
Makwanpur
Rupandehi*

**Districts where HRJC conducted capacity building activities in 2021/22.*

I joined the Ministry of Law, Justice, and Parliamentary Affairs' Secretariat as a personal officer to the Law Minister for six months immediately after I completed my coaching on international human rights law at HRJC. My major responsibility in the Ministry was to conduct research on international and foreign laws relating to transitional justice (TJ). The coaching at the HRJC introduced me to the concept and components of TJ, equipped me with tools to find the necessary documents, and enhanced my research skills. All these and more learning helped me apply my knowledge to assist the Ministry.

Prajwol Bickram Rana, Coaching participant 2022

Decision of the UN Human Rights Committee (HRC) on a case of extra-judicial killing



On March 15, 2004, a 15-year-old boy from an indigenous community was intercepted by approximately 200 security officers. Immediately, they tied the hands of the boy and questioned about his involvement with a party in conflict. Despite the boy's repeated denials, he was verbally assaulted and subjected to physical and mental torture. The officers then opened fire at the boy, shot three times in the back of his head, and killed him.



The family of the boy submitted the complaint to the National Human Rights Commission and tried registering the complaint through the formal criminal procedure several times. However, the attempts of the family were systematically frustrated, and no investigation was conducted into the events.



Along with its partner, HRJC submitted an individual communication on 20 May 2022 to the United Nations Human Rights Committee (HRC) regarding the extrajudicial killing of the 15-year-old boy during the period of conflict in Nepal. The HRC is a monitoring body of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, a UN multilateral treaty to which Nepal is a party.



On 20 May 2022, HRC published its views on the case that found Nepal responsible for the arbitrary deprivation of liberty, the torture, and the extrajudicial execution of the boy. It recommends the Nepal government to effectively investigate the circumstances of the boy's death; identify, try, and punish the perpetrators; issue an official apology to his parents and build a memorial in his name; and restore his and his family's dignity and reputation.



This case is emblematic of the widespread practice of extrajudicial killing in Nepal and the continuing impunity. According to the Views published the HRC, Nepal should also publicly acknowledge the state's responsibility, amend domestic legislation, especially with regard to the applicable status of limitation for torture, offer psychological as well as medical care to the family, and compensate the family for the damages suffered.



LEGAL ASSISTANCE

64

Legal counseling provided in 2021/22 to victims of gross human rights violations.



4 cases litigated by HRJC before national bodies in 2021/22.



Districts of the victims:
Rupandehi
Dhanusha



ADVOCACY



4 international webinars with a representative of the UN human rights mechanisms



2 workshops with quasi-judicial bodies on implementing decisions of the UN Human Rights Committee



Website updated of www.realrightsnow.org, a collaborative online repository of the cases presented to the UN Human Rights Committee



2 panel discussions on thematic issues of gross human rights violations

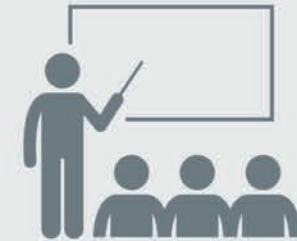


2 strategic closed-door meetings with national authorities on implementing decisions of the UN Human Rights Committee

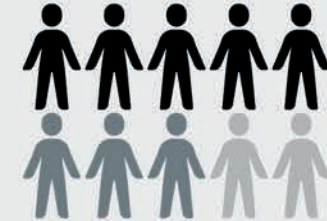


4 comprehensive reports submitted to national bodies and UN human rights mechanisms.

CAPACITY BUILDING



1 six-month coaching and **2 two-day training** on international human rights litigation for lawyers and human rights defenders and **1 legal empowerment workshop** for victims



Beneficiaries:
30 lawyers
18 human rights defenders
9 victims



Districts:
Kailali
Rupandehi
Kathmandu

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS!

HRJC's impact in 2021/22 is made possible by the generous support of TRIAL International (MISEREOR, Canton of Geneva, and Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative) and the European Union. Thanks to all the donors.

86% TRIAL International

14% European Union

NPR 13,890,798

Total revenue

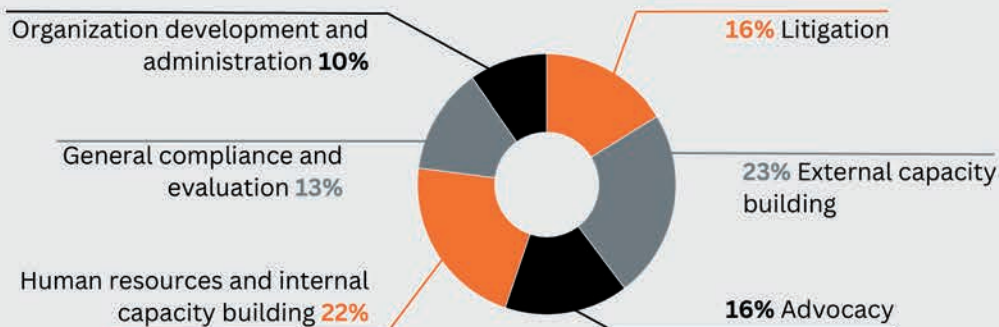
2021/22

NPR 13,666,079

Total expenses

2021/22

2021/22 Expenditure overview



SUPPORT OUR WORK! DONATE!

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